



UNIVERSE

51

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NIGHTWING



**G. WILLOW
WILSON**

**CARY
NORD**



DIANA'S
OLDEST ENEMY
RETURNS—
AND WANTS TO BE
HER CLOSEST ALLY!

**WONDER
WOMAN**

THE NEW
CREATIVE TEAM
BEGINS
IN ISSUE #58



NOVEMBER

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TERRY
ROSSO
RACHEL



RATED T TEEN
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NIGHTWING 51 LOBDELL • MOORE • BROWN • FILARDI • HI-FI



YEAH.

WE WERE ALL
WONDERING WHERE
YOU'VE BEEN HIDING
FOR THE LAST *FOUR*
MONTHS...

KNIGHT TERRORS

PART TWO

CALL WAITING

SCOTT LOBDELL PLOT
FABIAN NICIEZA ADDITIONAL SCRIPT
TRAVIS MOORE & GARRY BROWN ARTISTS
HI-FI & NICK FILARDI COLORISTS
DERON BENNETT LETTERER
DAVE WIELGOSZ ASST. EDITOR
KATIE KUBERT EDITOR
JAMIE S. RICH GROUP EDITOR
NIGHTWING CREATED BY
MARV WOLFGAN AND GEORGE PÉREZ

...BLÜDHAVEN HAS BEEN A HORROR SHOW. MY OFFICERS ARE STRETCHED TOO FAR AND TOO THIN ACROSS THE STREETS TO EVEN MAKE A *DENT* THESE DAYS.

I TELL YOU, I'VE BEEN A COP FOR ALMOST TWENTY YEARS... I'VE NEVER SEEN IT THIS BAD. EITHER THAT, OR I NEVER TRULY REALIZED HOW BAD THIS CITY CAN GET.

THEN YOU GO AND DISAPPEAR... EVERYONE THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD. WELL, YOU *MAY* ACTUALLY BE DEAD, BUT BLÜDHAVEN STILL NEEDS A *HERO*...

...GUESS YOU PICKED A BAD TIME TO QUIT THE GAME.





YO, DETECTIVE SAPIENZA--FIND THE ANSWERS YOU WERE LOOKING FOR DOWN THERE? WHAT'S THE WORD?

NO BODIES...



...NO WORRIES. I TELL YA, HUTCH, THE WAY THIS CITY'S BEEN LATELY, I'M SURPRISED IT'S NOT A BLOODBATH OR SOME CULT SACRIFICE OR SOME GANG AFTERMATH DOWN THERE.

FIRST BLOOD-FREE CRIME SCENE I'VE SEEN IN A WHILE.

YEAH, I HEAR YOU...BEEN BAD ALL OVER. ALMOST AS BAD AS GOTHAM, FEELS LIKE. THERE WAS A LOT OF SMOKE DOWN THERE, I COULD BARELY SEE ANYTHING...



...YOU SURE THERE WEREN'T ANY *BODIES* IN THOSE TUBES?

YEAH, EVERYTHING'S BURN'T TO ASH. I'LL GET THE CSI TEAM IN TO BAG ANYTHING UNCHARRED. WHY DON'T YOU GUYS GET MOVING TO THE NEXT FIVE-ALARM?

WE'RE ALREADY ON IT. YOU KNOW, SAP, I GOT YOUR BACK...THINGS GET ANY WORSE AND YOU CAN'T HANDLE IT, YOU GIVE ME A CALL, YEAH? YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY...



...THE ONLY THING NECESSARY FOR THE TRIUMPH OF EVIL IS FOR GOOD MEN TO DO NOTHING.

YEAH...

...I'LL LET YOU KNOW.

WRAP IT UP, GUYS, WE GOTTA BUST IT OVER TO THE SPINE--GOT ANOTHER ALARM ON THE BLUE LINE.

A full-page comic book illustration featuring Nightwing and Batman. Nightwing, in his blue and black suit with a blue mask, is suspended in the air, holding two long, silver, baton-like weapons. He has a determined expression. Below him, Batman, in his black and grey suit with a red bat-eared cowl, is also suspended, looking up at Nightwing with a serious, intense expression. The background shows a city skyline at night with illuminated buildings and a dark, cloudy sky. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on the characters' suits and weapons.

I get these dreams sometimes...

...I can never remember them. Just remember how I feel when I wake up.

My name's **Ric Grayson**. Short for **Richard**. I used to be called **Dick**.

I was called **Nightwing**, too. Until my brain met that bullet.

But all of that is ash now. **Literally**.

Just took some gasoline and a lighter and torched the top secret underground superhero **bunker** that I guess all superheroes are required to have by law.

At first, I feel purposeful. I feel free...





PRODIGAL BAR. NOW.

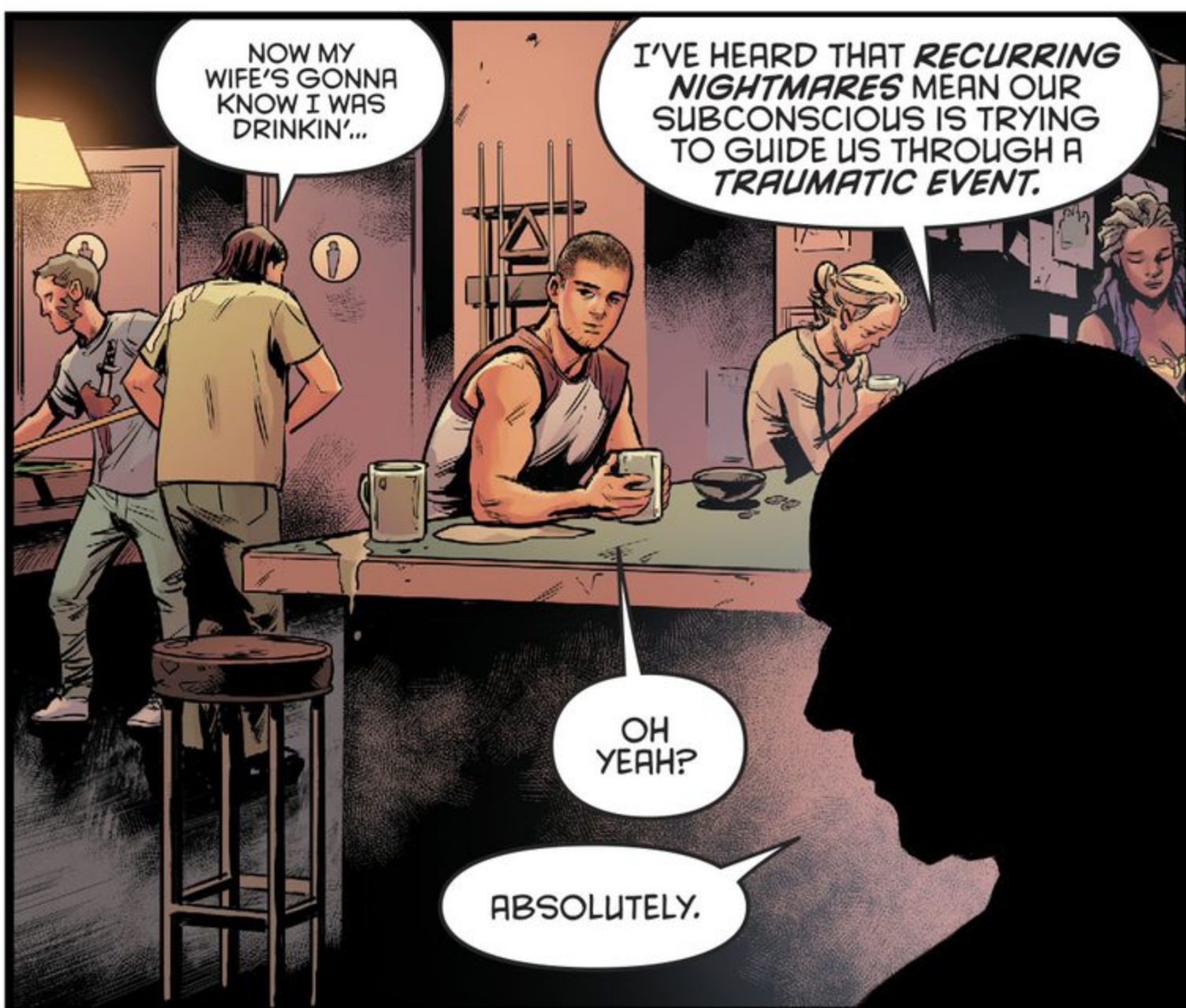




AH, I'M SORRY, STEVE.

MUSTA BEEN SOME NIGHTMARE, RIC.

YOU GOT ME...EVERY NIGHT I WAKE UP SCREAMING, BUT I NEVER REMEMBER A THING.



NOW MY WIFE'S GONNA KNOW I WAS DRINKIN'...

I'VE HEARD THAT *RECURRING NIGHTMARES* MEAN OUR SUBCONSCIOUS IS TRYING TO GUIDE US THROUGH A *TRAUMATIC EVENT*.

OH YEAH?

ABSOLUTELY.



WHEN I WAS A SOLDIER, I WOULD GET THEM CONSTANTLY. COULD NEVER REMEMBER WHAT THEY WERE ABOUT, JUST THAT I WOULD WAKE UP IN FEAR...EITHER OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED, OR THE UNCERTAINTY OF WHAT WAS TO COME.

MASTER DI--

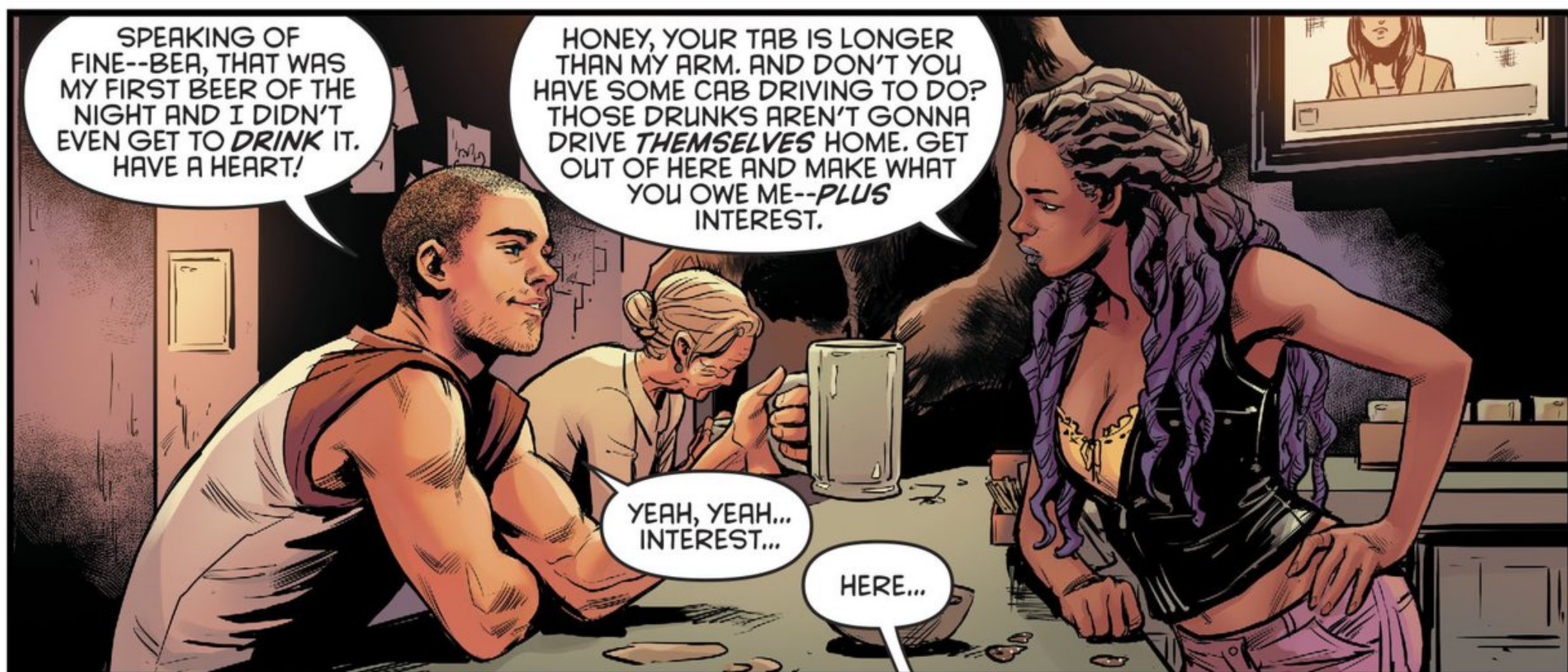
...RIC, ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE DOING ALL RIGHT? YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT THESE PAST FEW MONTHS, AND WE'RE WORRIED ABOUT...

...I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE OKAY.



OH HEY, IT'S YOU...MR. PENNYWORTH, RIGHT?

YEAH, DON'T WORRY--I KNOW YOU AND THE COMMISSIONER'S DAUGHTER ARE ALL BENT OUT OF SHAPE OVER MY "WELL-BEING," BUT HONESTLY...*I'M FINE.*



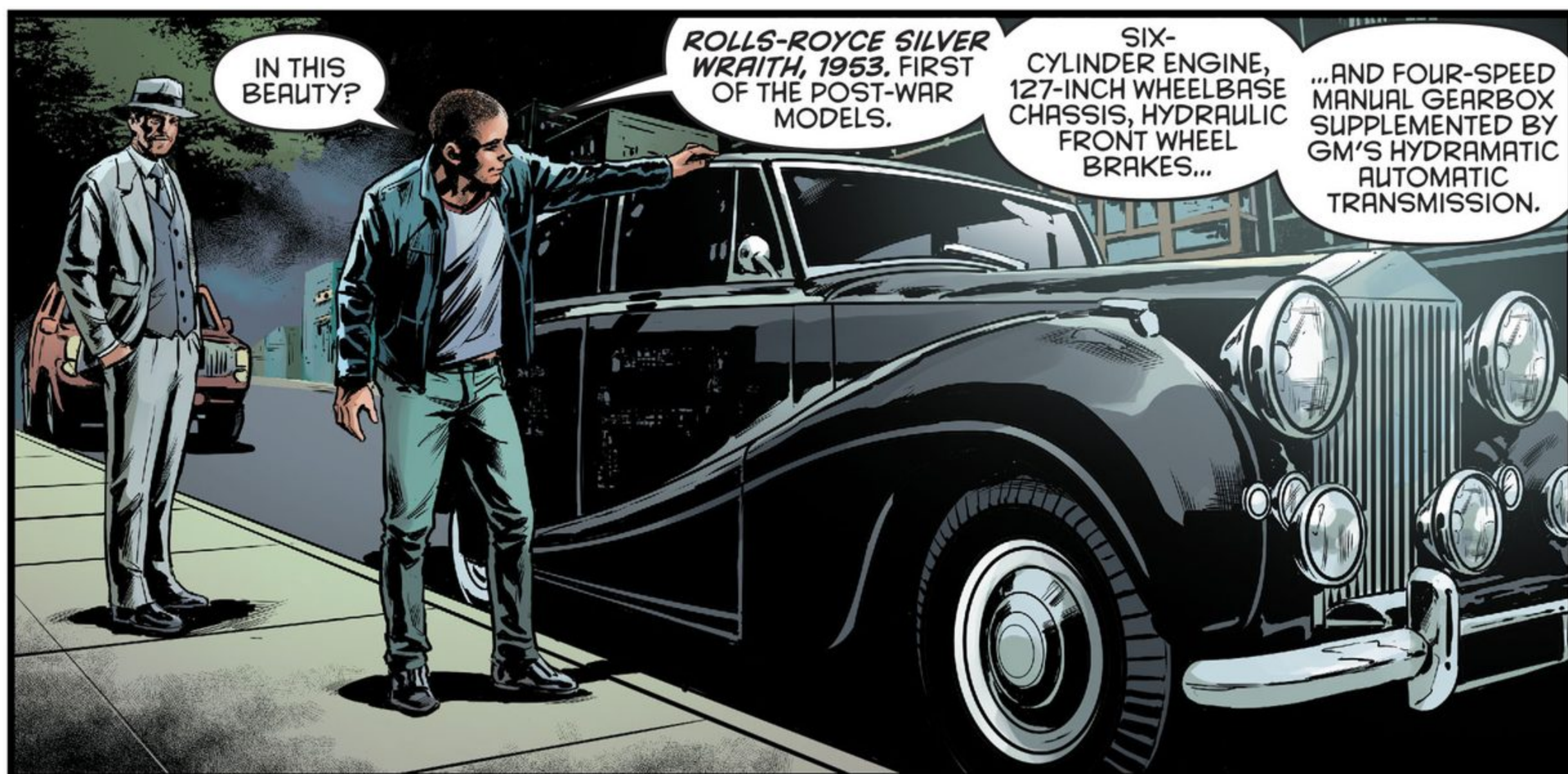
SPEAKING OF FINE--BEA, THAT WAS MY FIRST BEER OF THE NIGHT AND I DIDN'T EVEN GET TO *DRINK* IT. HAVE A HEART!

HONEY, YOUR TAB IS LONGER THAN MY ARM. AND DON'T YOU HAVE SOME CAB DRIVING TO DO? THOSE DRUNKS AREN'T GONNA DRIVE *THEMSELVES* HOME. GET OUT OF HERE AND MAKE WHAT YOU OWE ME--*PLUS* INTEREST.

YEAH, YEAH... INTEREST...

HERE...





BLÜDHAVEN. ELSEWHERE...

I APPRECIATE
YOU SEEING ME,
DR. GRUIDAE.

YOU JUST OPENED
YOUR PRACTICE IN
BLÜDHAVEN AND HERE
I AM, SHOWING UP SO
LATE TO BOTHER
YOU...BUT I AM
SCARED.

I AM HERE
FOR YOU,
WENDY. WHAT
IS TROUBLING
YOU?

I CAN'T STOP
THINKING ABOUT
ANDREW...

...HOW
HORRIBLE
HIS DEATH
WAS...

...TO
DROWN IN
HIS BED...*

...IT'S
UNBELIEVABLE--
IT'S **INSANE.**

I KEEP
THINKING OF
HOW **TERRIFIED**
HE MUST HAVE
BEEN...

THE WAY
HE DIED WAS
HORRIFYING, YES.
BUT WE MUST
ALSO CONSIDER
THAT FEAR CAN BE
LIBERATING...

*See last
issue. --K.K.

...IT IS SUCH
A VERY, **VERY**
POWERFUL FORCE.
WE TURN FROM IT,
WE SHUN IT--

--BUT
PERHAPS WE
SHOULD CONSIDER
ACCEPTING
IT?

WENDY, I AM
GOING TO HELP
YOU **EMBRACE**
YOUR **FEAR...**

BLÜDHAVEN TAXI CO.

I stopped by the best Hungarian place in Avalon Heights on my way...

...got some piping hot *lesco* and *fekete* to keep me going.

Fuel to start my shift.

Figure three months driving a cab should get me enough money to do...whatever I decide to do next.

That's the best part of driving sometimes...

...the freedom.

HEY, *BURL*. WHASSUP?

I'D SAY YOU. JUST BARELY.

WEARING THE SAME CLOTHES AS YESTERDAY...

...AND THE DAY BEFORE.

DISPATCHER CALLED IN SICK, SO SENIORITY MEANS I'M IN CHARGE TONIGHT...

...JUST DON'T SCRATCH IT.

THANKS, MAN...

...BUT NO PROMISES.

WHATEVER, MAN, JUST WATCH IT OUT THERE.

YOU MIGHT NOT REMEMBER HOW BLÜDHAVEN WORKS THESE DAYS...

"...BUT SHE HAS A WAY
OF REMINDING YOU."

The time in my cab is
mine, and mine alone. I
use it to give my poor
injured brain a break.

YOU WERE
FLIRTING
WITH HIM!

HE TRIPPED
AND FELL ON
ME!

YOU LET
HIM FALL
ON YOU!

I WAS
CATCHING
HIM, YOU
IDIOT!

Sometimes I wonder,
though...all these people
who seem to care about
me...they care
about *Dick Grayson*.

FOUR
MINUTES!
THAT'S ALL
I GOT!

I'M AT THE
CLUB *EVERY*
NIGHT! HE
PROMISED ME
A *FULL SET*
TONIGHT!

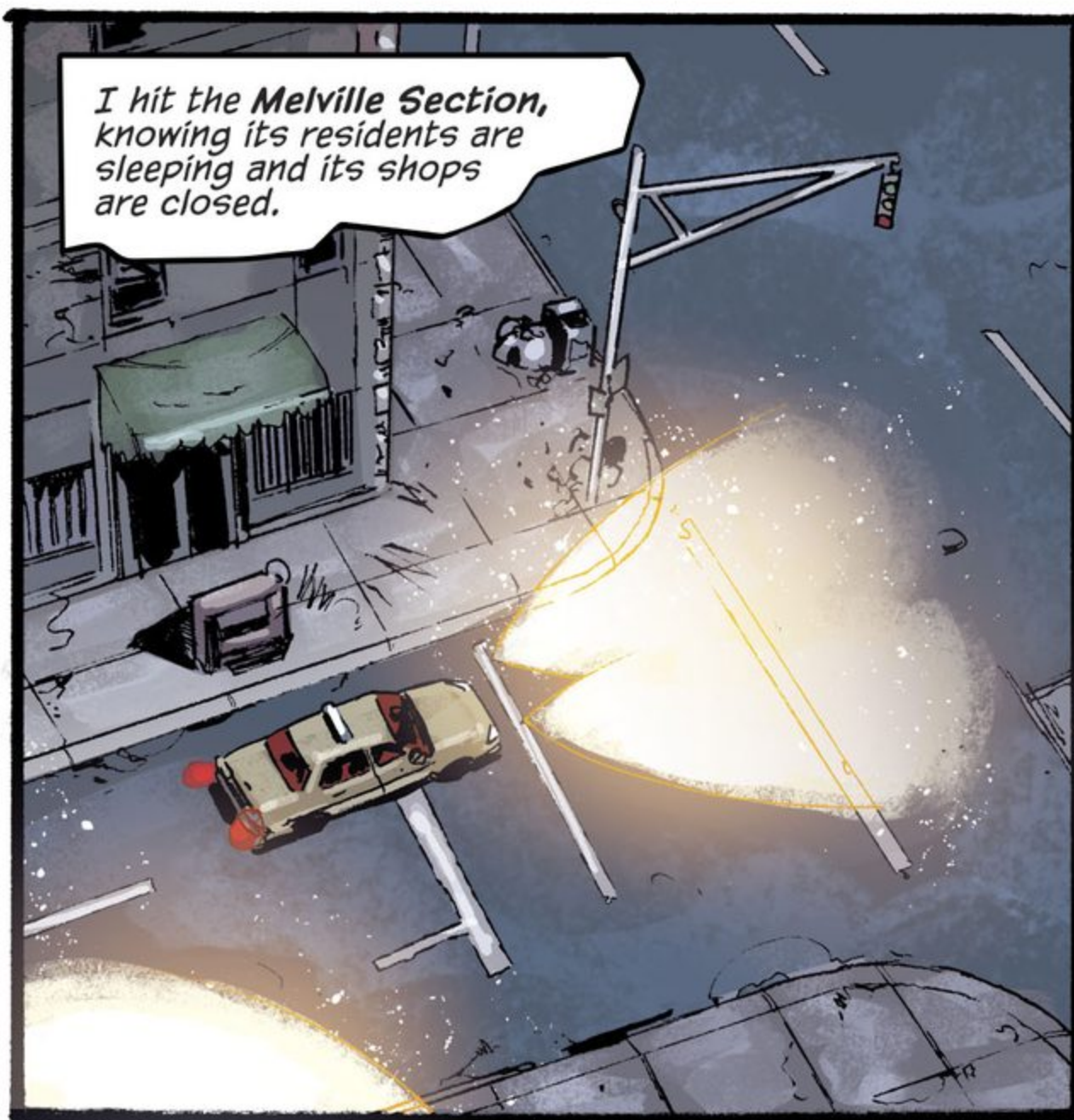
I WAS THE
LAST ONE UP AND
THE PLACE WAS
PRACTICALLY
EMPTY!

They
care about
Nightwing.

They care about
something...

...and these
people, sure they
have problems.
But they also
have lives.

After three a.m.,
the clubs are empty
and the streets
get emptier...



I hit the Melville Section, knowing its residents are sleeping and its shops are closed.



But I know why I came here.



No one's bought it yet.

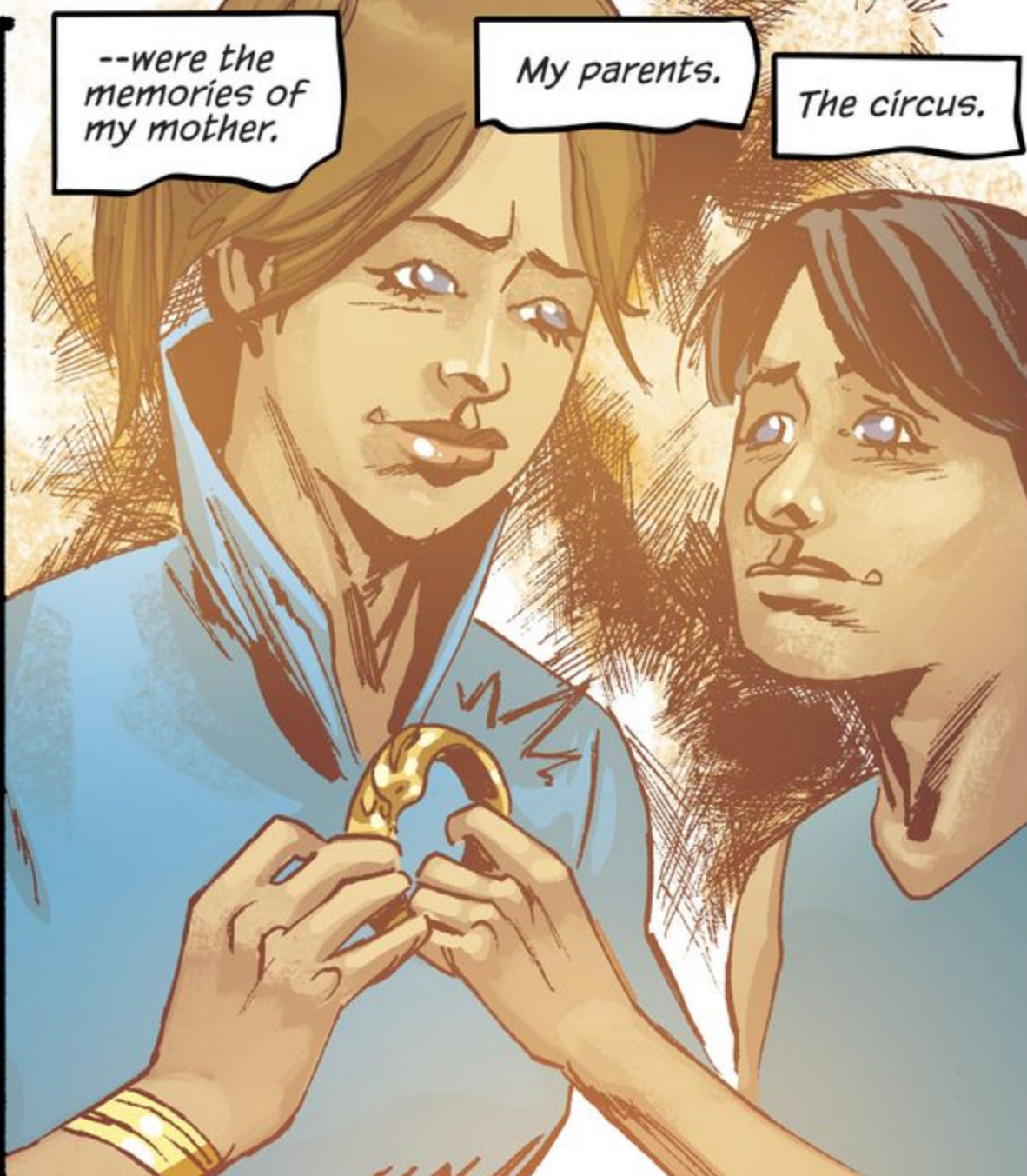


Vintage costume jewelry. Not even worth pawning.

So why do I keep coming back?



Because the only things the bullet didn't take away from me--



--were the memories of my mother.

My parents.

The circus.



So yeah, I know exactly why I'm--

KLIK



GIVE
ME YOUR
WALLET!

Seriously, what is it with
guys and guns in this
town? I can't escape it...

...do I have some
sort of *bull's-eye*
on my head?



IT'S
IN THE
CAB.

DRIVER'S
SEAT CADDY.
TAKE IT.

I DON'T
WANT ANY
TROUBLE.



UM...

DUDE,
JUST TAKE
THE MONEY
AND GO.

NO...
YOU KNOW
WHAT?

ZELDA



I'LL TAKE
YOUR CAB,
TOO!

YOU
DRIVE--OR
I'LL BLOW
YOUR HEAD
OFF!

THUP



...



click

...I, I don't know what happened next.

Not exactly.

One second, I'm standing with a gun pushed into my head.

The next...

BLAM

THAK

KRAK



...I, I'm
not quite sure
what I am.



OH GOD...

My muscles moved
independently.

As if on instinct. And
that's when I realize
I might *not* be fine.

CHIK
KLIK

If I can do all this
without thinking?
Just on instinct...?

"This isn't the
life I want."

EPILOGUE.

SMOKE AND ASH
CAN'T OBSCURE
THE TRUTH.

SO MUCH GOOD
WAS DONE IN THESE
COSTUMES.

SO MANY LIVES
AFFECTED, SO
MANY PEOPLE IN
NEED OF SAVING...

...WHO
OTHERWISE
WOULD HAVE
HAD NO ONE.

IF THERE'S NO
ONE TO WEAR
THE MASK...

...NO ONE
TO PROTECT
BLÜDHAVEN...

WHERE
DID YOU GO,
NIGHTWING?

YOU LEFT US
TO OUR OWN
DEVICES...



...BUT YOU
ALSO LEFT THE
TOOLS FOR ONE
COP TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE.

**NEXT: *THE NEW
NIGHTWING?***

THE OCEAN LORDS ARE GOING TO SINK THE WORLD. IT'S UP TO THE WORLD'S GREATEST SUPER HEROES TO TURN THE TIDE!

JUSTICE LEAGUE • AQUAMAN

DROWNED EARTH

Written by

**SCOTT SNYDER,
JAMES TYNION IV & DAN ABNETT**

Art by

**FRANCIS MANAPUL, HOWARD PORTER,
FRAZER IRVING, LAN MEDINA
& VICENTE CIFUENTES**

OCTOBER

JUSTICE LEAGUE #10

AQUAMAN #41

TITANS #28

Part One—JUSTICE LEAGUE/AQUAMAN:
DROWNED EARTH #1

NOVEMBER

Part Two—JUSTICE LEAGUE #11

Part Three—JUSTICE LEAGUE #12

Tie-in—AQUAMAN #42

Part Four—AQUAMAN/JUSTICE LEAGUE:
DROWNED EARTH #1



CRUSH

Get the lowdown on this throwdown queen, the daughter of intergalactic bruiser Lobo, currently cracking skulls in the all-new TEEN TITANS



PARENTAL GUIDANCE

If Lobo is Crush's dad, who is her mom? "That's a big, ongoing mystery in the series, and won't be revealed for a while," says TEEN TITANS editor Alex Antone. "The bigger immediate question is: Does Lobo know about her? What would he do if he did?"

"We'll find out that her mother could possibly be one of the big hitters of the DCU!" teases writer Adam Glass.

OFF THE CHAIN

"Crush currently is not in possession of her chain," says Antone. "She goes looking for it in issue #25. The chain protected her as an infant when she crash-landed on Earth. And the chain not only has a name, but is sentient. Read #25 for more on that."

CRUSH SMASHES HER SPLASH!

"The most important thing about Crush is that she's not apologizing for who or what she is," says writer Adam Glass. "She's like, 'This is who I am, this is the way I was born, and I'm not making excuses or looking for your approval. I'm just gonna be me and do my thing. And she's literally crushing it!'"

WORST. TEAMMATE. EVER?

"Crush is a bit of a hot mess!" Glass says. "As much as she's honest and straightforward, she obviously has daddy issues—and mommy issues. She, like Damian, has to learn that you have a family, you have a group of people who care about you... and if you let them in, they can actually help you. You don't have to be a lone wolf out there." ■

FOR MORE
CRUSH, CHECK OUT
TEEN TITANS #23
ON SALE NOW!

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